

# Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

# FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

### PART 1

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY SCOTTISH PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

# Right to information

- 1 General entitlement
- 2 Effect of exemptions
- 3 Scottish public authorities
- 4 Amendment of schedule 1
- 5 Further power to designate Scottish public authorities
- 6 Publicly-owned companies
- 7 Public authorities to which Act has limited application
- 7A Reports on section 5 power
  - 8 Requesting information
  - 9 Fees
- 10 Time for compliance
- 11 Means of providing information
- 12 Excessive cost of compliance
- 13 Fees for disclosure in certain circumstances
- 14 Vexatious or repeated requests
- 15 Duty to provide advice and assistance

#### Responses to request

- 16 Refusal of request
- 17 Notice that information is not held
- 18 Further provision as respects responses to request

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# Content of certain notices

19 Content of certain notices

# Review of refusal, etc.

- 20 Requirement for review of refusal etc.
- 21 Review by Scottish public authority

# Records transferred to the Keeper of the Records of Scotland

22 Special provisions relating to records transferred to Keeper

#### Publication schemes

- 23 Publication schemes
- 24 Model publication schemes

# PART 2

#### EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 25 Information otherwise accessible
- 26 Prohibitions on disclosure
- 27 Information intended for future publication
- 28 Relations within the United Kingdom
- 29 Formulation of Scottish Administration policy etc.
- 30 Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs
- 31 National security and defence
- 32 International relations
- 33 Commercial interests and the economy
- Investigations by Scottish public authorities and proceedings arising out 34 of such investigations
- 35 Law enforcement
- 36 Confidentiality
- 37 Court records, etc.
- Personal information 38
- Health, safety and the environment 39
- 40 Audit functions
- 41 Communications with Her Majesty etc. and honours

# PART 3

#### THE SCOTTISH INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

- The Scottish Information Commissioner 42
- 43 General functions of Commissioner
- 44 Recommendations as to good practice
- Confidentiality of information obtained by or furnished to 45 Commissioner
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- Strategic plans 46A

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- 48 When application excluded
- 49 Commissioner's decision
- 50 Information notices
- 51 Enforcement notices
- 52 Exception from duty to comply with certain notices
- 53 Failure to comply with notice
- 54 Powers of entry and inspection
- 55 No civil right of action against Scottish public authority
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#### PART 5

#### HISTORICAL RECORDS

- 57 The expression "historical record"
- 58 Falling away of exemptions with time
- 59 Power to vary periods mentioned in sections 57 and 58

# PART 6

#### CODES OF PRACTICE

- 60 Code of practice as to functions under this Act
- 61 Code of practice as to the keeping, management and destruction of records

#### PART 7

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL

- 62 Power to make provision relating to environmental information
- 63 Disclosure of information to Scottish Public Services Ombudsman or to Information Commissioner
- 64 Power to amend or repeal enactments prohibiting disclosure of information
- 65 Offence of altering etc. records with intent to prevent disclosure
- 65A Time limit for proceedings
  - 66 Saving for existing powers of disclosure
  - 67 Protection from actions for defamation
  - 68 Scottish Parliament and Scottish Administration
  - 69 Exercise of rights by children
  - 70 Amendment of Public Records (Scotland) Act 1937
  - 71 Amendment of Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002
  - 72 Orders and regulations
- 73 Interpretation
- 74 Giving of notice etc.
- 75 Commencement
- 76 Short title

SCHEDULE 1 — Scottish Public Authorities

Part 1 — MINISTERS, THE PARLIAMENT

- 1 The Scottish Ministers.
- 2 The Scottish Parliament.
- 3 The Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

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# Part 2 — NON MINISTERIAL OFFICE HOLDERS IN THE SCOTTISH ADMINISTRATION

- 4 The Chief Dental Officer of the Scottish Administration.
- 5 The Chief Medical Officer of the Scottish Administration.
- 6 Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary.
- 7 Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland.
- 7ZA Consumer Scotland.
- 7A The Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland
- 7AA Environmental Standards Scotland.
  - 7B Food Standards Scotland.
    - 8 Her Majesty's Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland.
    - 9 Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Scottish Fire and Rescue...
  - 10 Her Majesty's inspectors of schools (that is to say, the...
  - 11 The Keeper of the Records of Scotland.
  - 12 The Keeper of the Registers of Scotland.
- 12A The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator
  - 13 A procurator fiscal.
  - 14 The Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer.
  - 15 The Queen's Printer for Scotland.
  - 16 The Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland....
  - 17 The Registrar of Independent Schools in Scotland.
- 18 A rent officer appointed under section 43(3) of the Rent...
- 18A The Scottish Court Service.
- 18AA The Scottish Fiscal Commission
  - 18B The Scottish Housing Regulator.
    - 19 A social work inspector appointed under section 4 of the...

# Part 3 — LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 20 An assessor appointed under section 27(2) of the Local Government...
- 21 A council constituted by section 2 of that Act.
- 22 A joint board, within the meaning of section 235(1) of...
- 23 A licensing board continued in existence by or established under...
- 24 The Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority.

# Part 4 — THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

- 25 The Clinical Standards Board for Scotland.
- 26 The Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.
- 27 A Health Board, constituted under section 2 of the National...
- 27A Healthcare Improvement Scotland.
  - 28 The Health Education Board for Scotland.
  - 29 The Health Technology Board for Scotland.
- 29A The National Waiting Times Centre Board
  - 30 A local health council, established under section 7 of the...
  - 31 A National Health Service trust.
  - 32 NHS 24.
- 32A NHS Education for Scotland
- 32B NHS Health Scotland
- 32C ........
  - 33 A person providing primary medical services under a general medical...
  - A person providing primary medical services or personal dental services
  - 35 A person providing, in Scotland, piloted services within the meaning...
- 35A Public Health Scotland.
  - The Post Qualification Education Board for Health Service Pharmacists in...

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The Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards.

38 The Scottish Advisory Committee on the Medical Workforce. 39 The Scottish Ambulance Service Board. 40 The Scottish Council for Post Graduate Medical and Dental Education 41 The Scottish Dental Practice Board. 42 The Scottish Health Advisory Service. 43 The Scottish Hospital Endowments Research Trust. 44 The Scottish Hospital Trust. The State Hospitals Board for Scotland. 45 46 The Scottish Medical Practices Committee. Part 5 — EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS 47 The board of management of a college of further education... 48 A central institution within the meaning of the Education (Scotland)... 49 An institution in receipt of funding from the Scottish Further... Part 6 — POLICE 50 A chief constable of the Police Service of Scotland. The Scottish Police Authority. 50A The Police Negotiating Board for Scotland. 50B 51 A joint police board constituted by an amalgamation scheme made... 52 The Police Advisory Board for Scotland. 52A Part 7 — OTHERS 53 The Accounts Commission for Scotland. 54 55 56 57 Audit Scotland. 58 The Auditor General for Scotland. 59 The Board of Trustees for the National Galleries of Scotland.... 60 The Board of Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland.... 61 The Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.... 61A Bòrd na Gàidhlig 61AA **Boundaries Scotland** 61B The British Waterways Board. 62 62ZZZA Children's Hearings Scotland. The Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland.... 62ZZA 62ZA The Commissioner for Children and Young People in Scotland 62A 62B 62ZZC Community Justice Scotland. 62ZC The Convener of the School Closure Review Panels. 62C Creative Scotland. The Criminal Courts Rules Council. 62D The Crofters Commission. 63 63A Crown Estate Scotland. 64 65 The General Teaching Council for Scotland. 66 66A Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prosecution in Scotland 67 Highlands and Islands Enterprise. 67ZA Historic Environment Scotland.

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67ZB	ILF Scotland.
67A	The Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland.
67B	An integration joint board established by order under section 9(2)
68	
68ZA	The James Hutton Institute.
68A	The Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland
69	A Justice of the Peace Advisory Committee established under
70	Learning and Teaching Scotland.
71	The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.
71A	The Moredun Research Institute.
72	The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.
72A	Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland.
73	A National Park authority, established by virtue of schedule 1
74	The Parole Board for Scotland.
75	A person appointed for Scotland under section 3(1) of the
75ZA	
75A	
75AB	The Police Investigations and Review Commissioner.
75AC	The Poverty and Inequality Commission
75B	Quality Meat Scotland
75BA	Redress Scotland.
75C	The Risk Management Authority
76	The Risk Management Authority
76A	A School Closure Review Panel constituted under section 17A(3) of.
70A 77	
	The Scottish Agricultural Wages Board.
77A	The Scottish Animal Welfare Commission.
78 70	
79 <b>7</b> 0.1	
79A	The Scottish Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, but only in
79B	The Scottish Biometrics Commissioner.
80	The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration.
80AA	The Scottish Civil Justice Council.
80B	The Scottish Commission for Human Rights.
80C	The Scottish Commission on Social Security.
81	
82	
83	The Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission.
84	Scottish Enterprise.
85	The Scottish Environment Protection Agency.
85ZA	The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
85ZAA	The Scottish Food Commission
85ZB	The Scottish Fuel Poverty Advisory Panel.
85A	The Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council.
85B	
86 86	
87	
88	
89	
90	The Scottish Information Commissioner.
90A	The Scottish Land Commission.
91	The Scottish Law Commission.
92	The Scottish Legal Aid Board.
92A	The Scottish Legal Complaints Commission.

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- The Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee 92B 92C The Scottish National Investment Bank p.l.c. 93 Scottish Natural Heritage. 94 95 The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. 96 The Scottish Qualifications Authority. 97 98 98A The Scottish Sentencing Council. The Scottish Social Services Council. 99 100 The Scottish Sports Council. 101 102 Scottish Water. Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland. 102A 102B South of Scotland Enterprise. 103 104 The Standards Commission for Scotland. 105 The National Library of Scotland. 105A VisitScotland.
  - SCHEDULE 2 The Scottish Information Commissioner

The Water Industry Commission for Scotland.

1 Status

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- 2 Pensions, allowances, etc.
- 3 Staff
- 4 Accountable officer
- 5 Accounts
- 6 General powers

# Budget

4A (1) The Commissioner must, before the start of each financial...

# Location of office

7 The Commissioner must comply with any direction given by the...

Sharing of premises, staff, services and other resources

8 The Commissioner must comply with any direction given by the...

Restrictions on subsequent appointments etc.

9 (1) A person who has ceased being the Commissioner may...

# SCHEDULE 3 — Powers Of Entry And Inspection

- 1 Grant of warrants
- 2 (1) A sheriff must not grant the warrant unless satisfied—...
- 3 Execution of warrants
- 4 The warrant must be executed at a reasonable hour, unless...
- 5 (1) If the premises in respect of which the warrant...
- 6 (1) A person seizing anything in pursuance of the warrant...
- 7 Matters exempt from inspection and seizure
- 8 (1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, the powers...
- 9 If the person in occupation of premises in respect of...

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- 10 Offences
- 11 Vessels, vehicles etc.

SCHEDULE 4 — Consequential Amendments To Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002

- 1 In section 19(8) of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act...
- 2 In schedule 5 to that Act (which specifies persons or...

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# Changes and effects yet to be applied to:

- sch. 1 para. 62A inserted by 2003 asp 4 sch. 4 para. 17(c)(i)
- Sch. 1 para. 80A inserted by 2007 asp 3 Sch. 5 para. 28 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Sch. 5 para. 28 repealed (31.1.2011) by 2010 asp 8, sch. 4 Pt. 2; S.S.I. 2011/30, art. 3(1), Sch. 1)
- sch. 1 Pt. 4 para. 30 repealed by 2004 asp 7 sch. 2
- sch. 1 Pt. 4 para. 31 repealed by 2004 asp 7 sch. 2
- sch. 1 Pt. 7 words inserted by 2009 asp 12 sch. 2 para. 5

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters: Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

sch. 1 para. 74A inserted by 2023 asp 6 sch. 2 para. 2(2)